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EXAMINER

D AGOSTA, STEPHEN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2683

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/642,203	Applicant(s) GILLESPIE ET AL.	
	Examiner Stephen M. D'Agosta	Art Unit 2683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8-14, 16 and 18-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 7, 15 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

1. The applicant states that claims 1-26 were not reviewed (eg. claim 25 was missed). The examiner disagrees.

a. Firstly, claim 25 is an independent claim and was grouped into the first set of claims which addressed the independent claims (see page 3):

“...Claims 1-3, 11-13 and 21-24 and claims 24-25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hallenstal US 6,125,126 and further in view of Widmark et al. US 5,504,804 (hereafter Hallenstal and Widmark).

As per claims 1, 12 and 21 and 24 (typo - should be 25) Hallenstal teaches”

b. Secondly, claim 26 was addressed (page 5), but it was written as claim 25 by accident (typo):

“...As per claim 25, (typo - should be 26) Hallenstal teaches the method of claim 25 (***shows dependency and therefore a small typo***), further comprising: receiving a call directed to the mobile directory number of the subscriber, receiving either a busy or a no-answer indication from the mobile device of the subscriber relating to the mobile directory number, and processing the call to the mobile directory number by transferring the call to a voice mail system of the subscriber....”

While a typo caused some confusion, it only took the examiner a few moments to realize what the “error” was and determine that all claims were addressed. Hence, a new office action is not required. **The examiner apologizes for this error.**

2. A new office action is shown below which addresses the amended claims.

Upon further consideration, claims 5, 7, 15 and 17 are objected to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 11-13 and 21-24 and claims 25-26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hallenstal US 6,125,126 and further in view of Widmark et al. US 5,504,804 (hereafter Hallenstal and Widmark).

As per **claims 1, 12 and 21** and 25, Hallenstal teaches for use in a communication network (figures 1 and 6) including a switching center in communication with at least one alternative system, an Intelligent Peripheral (figure 1, #16) and a plurality of subscribers (figure 1, letters A, B and C) each having at least one Directory Number (C2, L28-35) and a method for conditionally forwarding a call (abstract) comprising a Service Location Register (ie. HLR, VLR, WSLR per applicant's spec) the call termination parameters including call forwarding features (C4, L10-45), detecting busy or no answer (C2, L48-51, C5, L14-16) forwarding a request to SLR for routing instructions (C4, L54-67, C5, L1-13), applying service logic to determine a disposition for the call (eg. call forward, etc.) on the IP (C2, L28-51, C4, L41-54) and applying service logic to disconnect the call or route the call to the at least one alternative system (C2, L52-67 and C3, L1-33) **but is silent on** the SLR in communication with switching center and SLR operative to retrieve stored call termination parameters for each DN and call information for each incoming call to a DN and wherein applying service logic comprises determining whether the call was routed via the IP and processing the call according to the determination.

The examiner notes that Hallenstal teaches a mobile network (figure 1, #18) which inherently include MSC's and HLR/VLR/WLSR's and the abstract teaches call processing/forwarding of a call.

Widmark teaches a mobile network that applies call routing decisions (abstract) whereby the MSC requests information from the HLR (eg. connection and data flow) and the MSC/HLR can store/send status information about the call(s). The examiner notes that an HLR may be co-located with an MSC and even be part of the actual MSC. Widmark also teaches determining who the calling party is and routing/forwarding based on if they are of a particular category which reads on applying service logic comprises determining whether the call was routed via the IP and processing the call according to the determination" (C6, L37-43).

With further regard to claim 12, Hallenstal is **silent** on a WSLR. The applicant states in the specification that a WSLR is a wireless SCP and these are widely used in telephone systems as is known in the art. The examiner interprets a WLSR as being either a HLR or VLR which are well known in the art to store data about each mobile user (eg: profile data).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hallenstal, such that the SLR and MSC interact to transmit/receive call information, to provide means for the system and user to understand all status data about said forwarded call.

As per **claims 2, 13 and 22**, Hallenstal teaches an MSC (figure 1, #18 – cell systems inherently contain MSC's).

As per **claims 3 and 24**, Hallenstal teaches claim 1/21 **but is silent on** a WSLR.

The applicant points out that a WLSR is the same as an SCP, which is known in the art as being used in phone networks (provides supplemental software programs for service logic).

The examiner interprets the MSC as containing a WLSR (ie. HLR or VLR which are well known in the art).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hallenstal, such that a WSLR is used, to provide means for a WSLR to be used in place of an SCP (as are known to be used in telephone systems).

As per **claim 11 and 24**, Hallenstal teaches at least one alternate system comprises a Voice Mail system (C4, L34-38).

As per claim 25, 26, Hallenstal teaches the method of claim 25, further comprising:

receiving a call directed to the mobile directory number of the subscriber;
receiving either a busy or a no-answer indication from the mobile device of the subscriber relating to the mobile directory number, and
processing the call to the mobile directory number by transferring the call to a voice mail system of the subscriber (figure 10 shows routing/forwarding a call to either a number or voicemail).

Claims 4, 6, 8-10 and 14, 16 and 18-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hallenstal/Widemark and further in view of Brennan et al. US 5,329,578 (hereafter Brennan).

As per **claims 4 and 14**, Hallenstal teaches claim 1/12 **but is silent on** wherein the step of applying service logic includes determining based on the calling party DN if the call is a business or personal call.

Brennan teaches determination of business or personal call (abstract, C1, L39-51 and C6, L5-30).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hallenstal, such that service logic is applied based on the type of call, to provide means for special call handling based on business or personal calls.

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As per **claims 6 and 16**, Hallenstal teaches claim 1/12 **but is silent on** applying service logic includes determining if the calling party directory number has been restricted.

Brennan teaches applying service logic if the calling number has been restricted, abstract, C1, L39-51, C3, L62-68, C4, L1-4, C4, L67-68 to C5, L1-59) and Alperovich teaches a similar embodiment (abstract – based on incorrectly forwarded number).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hallenstal, such that service logic determines if calling party number has been restrictions, to alert the user if a restricted caller has called.

As per **claims 8-10 and 18-20**, Hallenstal **is silent on** determination of time of day, day of week and date of call.

Brennan teaches service logic that can determine these times (abstract, C2, L55-60, C6, L47-68 and C7, L1-25).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hallenstal, such that various time stamps can be determined regarding the call, to provide means for the user/system to know when a caller called.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 7, 15 and 17 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims recite highly specific designs are appear to be novel in the examiner's opinion.

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Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. D'Agosta whose telephone number is 703-306-5426. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Trost can be reached on 703-308-5318. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stephen D'Agosta
1-3-05



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